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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NAIROBI 003173

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/2025

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SUBJECT: SUDAN: A/S NEWMAN AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE  
WINTER MEET GEN. SUMBEIYWO

Classified By: AF A/S Constance Newman

1. (C) SUMMARY. AF A/S Newman and Special Representative Winter met Gen. Sumbeiywo on August 4 in Nairobi to discuss the way forward in Sudan following the death of John Garang. Newman, Winter and Sumbeiywo compared views on the challenges facing new SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir and his capacity to meet those challenges. Sumbeiywo thinks that Kiir faces some political challenges of a type he has not been accustomed to dealing with. Sumbeiywo also gave his take on relations between Kiir and other top SPLM officials. Finally, they agreed that ideally, after Garang's funeral Kiir should travel to Khartoum to be sworn in as First Vice President and hold a few meetings of the Presidency before appointing a deputy for the GOSS who can manage affairs in the South while the GNU is formed. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) A/S Newman praised Sumbeiywo's role in the process and said his involvement was more important than ever. She reiterated the U.S. commitment to do whatever it can to ensure that implementation of the CPA stays on track. Newman noted that the rest of the money promised to Sumbeiywo to support his involvement had been approved and would be disbursed shortly. Winter concurred that Subeiywo has a key role to play and asked for his views on the situation. He said he was a bit more worried about the future after events in the past couple of days, including Kiir's comment that he expected implementation to "start over." (reported Septel)

3. (C) Sumbeiywo reassured Newman and Winter that Kiir likely only meant that the SPLM and GOS would have to react to the new situation and start the process from that point. Sumbeiywo is optimistic about implementation, but noted that everyone should remember that Kiir is a very different person than Garang. Sumbeiywo believes Kiir commitment to unity may be less strong than Garang's, but that his overriding interest is allowing self-determination for the South. He related previous conversations with Kiir that led him to believe Kiir is more willing to decentralize decision making in the SPLM. Sumbeiywo commented that Garang only trusted Nhial Deng and Pagan Amum, but Kiir would likely change the circle and delegate more decisions.

4. (C) Sumbeiywo expressed concern about Kiir's ability to operate in the Khartoum political environment. He said that Kiir has "enormous military capacity" but that he needs people with political savvy to advise him. Sumbeiywo isn't sure who Kiir really listens too except for former President of Kenya Moi and Bishop Taban of Yei. He noted that Garang had structures that connected him to political figures throughout Sudan and it wasn't clear if Kiir would inherit those structures. Kiir also lacks the contacts with regional heads of state that Garang had, according to Sumbeiywo. Sumbeiywo predicted that Kiir would have a "rough time" in Khartoum.

5. (C) How Kiir deals with the Khartoum political environment will, in part, depend on how he takes advice from other SPLM leaders. Nhial Deng was Garang's chief operative in Khartoum, but Sumbeiywo said there is bad blood between Deng and Kiir. Sumbeiywo proceeded to provide his take on Kiir's relationship with a number of SPLM officials.

-- Pagan Amum: There is bad blood between Kiir and Amum. Amum is seen as a Garang loyalist, but will likely have a role in the future because he is too talented to be excluded.

-- Kuol Manyang: A total Garang man. Salva has complained about him in the past, but Manyang is likely to be loyal to Kiir.

-- Lam Akol: Described as a "lightweight."

-- Oyai Deng: A hard liner and more of a field operative than a politician.

-- Edward Lino: A Garang man. Can be difficult, but his skills are needed.

-- James Wani Igga: A lightweight but deals well with Kiir.

6. (C) Newman, Winter and Sumbeiywo agreed that Kiir needs to go to Khartoum soon after the funeral to be sworn in as First Vice President. Sumbeiywo believes Kiir will not name a deputy for the GOSS until after he is sworn in as First Vice

President. He believes that Kiir should spend a little time in Khartoum establishing his role in the GNU Presidency before returning south to name a deputy. Once a deputy is in place to manage things in the South Kiir can return north to form the GNU, after which the GOSS can be created. Sumbeiywo said he has heard that Kiir might name Riek Machar the Vice President of the GOSS which would appease the Nuers, but cause other problems because Machar may not follow orders.

17. (C) Sumbeiywo is uncertain of Kiir's ability to influence the situation in Darfur, given the weakness in his relationship with regional leaders. However, all agreed that Kiir understands the gravity of the situation and the relationship between Darfur and the implementation of the CPA.

18. Khartoum minimize considered.  
BELLAMY